

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Horsted Park (Phase 2)
Former Mid Kent College Site
Maidstone Road, Chatham
Kent, ME1 2XQ**

**NGR: 574883 164789
(TQ 74883 64789)**

**Planning Ref: MC/15/0335
ASE Project No: 7770
Site Code: MKC 11
ASE Report No: 2015383
OASIS id: archaeol6-226986**



By Tom Munnery and Ian Hogg

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Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College Site, Chatham, Kent between 12th and 13th October 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of construction work. Five trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated.

The foundations of late 18th or early 19th century farm buildings and associated features were recorded. One undated pit was also recorded. Considerable disturbance had taken place during the construction and demolition of the buildings and no other finds or features of archaeological interest were noted.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College Site, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR TQ 74883 64789; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site occupies agricultural land lying to the immediate east of the Maidstone Road (A229). The bulk of the Horsted Park residential development lies to the north and fields lie to the south and east.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 272 (Chatham: 1974) shows the underlying geology of the site to comprise clay with flints. Recent geotechnical work has revealed up to 0.90m of made ground overlying the clay (CgMs 2015).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the residential redevelopment of the Phase 2 site (Medway Council planning ref: MC/15/0335). The LPA's consultation with Ben Found, KCC Archaeological Officer resulted in the following response:

The Phase 2 Scheme includes areas outside of the footprint of the former college. Of particular archaeological interest is the site of Horsted Farm, which was located immediately to the south of the former college. Horsted Farm is shown on maps dating to the latter half of the eighteenth century, but may have earlier origins. The submitted archaeological desk-based assessment recommends further archaeological investigations take place, focussed on the southern part of the site in areas that were not evaluated in 2011. I agree with this recommendation therefore suggest that provision is made in any forthcoming planning consent for a programme of archaeological works.

1.3.2 Subsequently the following condition has been attached to the planning consent:

22. No development to the south of the existing public footpath shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded and to avoid permanent impacts to any heritage assets in accordance with policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003.

1.3.3 Accordingly, an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015)

was prepared and approved by Ben Found of the Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) of Kent County Council (KCC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This set out the methodology for fieldwork and reporting. All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) and with ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a, b and c), and the KCC Manual of Specifications for Evaluation (KCC 2007).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 12th and the 13th October 2015.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2015) contains a full background to the site, including the history of Fort Horsted. Historic mapping presented in that document depicts the buildings of Horsted Farm lying within the current area of evaluation (ibid. Figure 3).
- 2.1.2 Below is a summary of the results of the previous phase of trenching to the north of current site area (ASE 2011).
- 2.1.3 In 2011 a 23 trench archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) at the site of the former Mid Kent College campus, Chatham, Kent in advance of the redevelopment (Figure 2).
- 2.1.4 The trenches fall into two groups: those positioned on the hill-top and those on the eastern hill slope. Apart from trenches 8 and 10 located on the cusp of the eastern hill-slope, all the trenches located on the hill-top were devoid of cut archaeological features and finds suggesting this area has been previously truncated, either during the construction of the 19th century fort or, more likely, the construction of the college in the 20th century. The trenches located on the hill-slope were similarly devoid of archaeological features and finds. No buried topsoil deposit was found suggesting before the levelling material was dumped; the area was stripped of topsoil.
- 2.1.5 Undated cut features did survive in Trenches 8 and 10 on the periphery of the hill-top but their shallow depth suggests they also suffered a degree of horizontal truncation. There was no indication of the date or function of these features despite their complete excavation within the trenches.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:
- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any remains and deposits
 - To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
 - To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - To assess what options should be considered for mitigation
- 2.3.2 The project will seek to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):
- The chronology and typology of farm buildings

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The excavation of five trenches (nos. 24-28) was proposed to evaluate the southern area of the site (ASE 2015). Upon commencing the evaluation, it was necessary to relocate or reduce the size all of the trenches because of mature trees, potential live services, reptile fencing, or to maintain access to the site. These relocations were agreed with CgMs prior to excavation (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation with a cable avoidance tool. Excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying substrate, or to the top of the archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher.
- 3.1.3 All deposits and archaeological features were recorded using standard ASE context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Vertical sections were drawn of features where necessary and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.4 Trenches and features were located and planned using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.5 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were backfilled using the machine bucket but no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	39
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Digital photos	23
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	5

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 24 (Figure 2)

4.1.1 Trench 24 had a thin layer of subsoil (24/002) between 0.10 and 0.20m in thickness above the natural geology and a thick layer of topsoil and leaf litter (24/001) above this, reaching 0.58m in depth. Modern made ground (24/004) 0.20m thick overlay the natural along the southern edge of the trench; it was overlain by the topsoil.

4.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.40-0.58	117.70-117.72
24/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.20	117.30-117.15
24/003	Layer	Natural	-	117.05-117.11
24/004	Layer	Modern made ground	0.20	117.30

Table 2: Trench 24 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trench 25 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.13-0.15	117.44-117.53
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.14-0.20	117.30-117.40
25/003	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	116.60-117.20
25/004	Cut	Pit	1.10	1.10	0.14	116.66
25/005	Fill	Pit fill	1.10	1.10	0.14	116.66

Table 3: Trench 25 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 25 was located along the northern boundary of the site and aligned north-south. It measured 30.00m long and was 1.80m wide. The trench was 0.35m deep at its maximum. Excavation ceased at the top of natural clay with flints geology.

4.2.2 The natural was cut by one undated feature. Towards the centre of the trench was an ovoid pit [25/004]. It measured approximately 1.10m in diameter and 0.06m deep and was filled with a compact mid brown-orange clay (25/005). Two lumps of chalk were recorded within the fill, but no finds were recovered.

4.2.3 The features were overlain by 0.20m dark brown subsoil (25/002) with frequent chalk flecks, which was in turn overlain by 0.15m topsoil (25/001).

4.3 Trench 26 (Figures 4 and 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	14.70	4.20	0.10	117.95-118.11
26/002	Layer	Demolition layer	14.70	4.20	0.38-0.40	117.85-118.00
26/003	Layer	Natural	14.70	4.20	-	117.40-117.60
26/004	Layer	Levelling deposit	4.90	3.81	0.23	117.50
26/005	Masonry	Wall foundation	5.49	0.49	0.41	117.50
26/006	Masonry	Wall foundation	3.22	0.23	0.15	117.56

Table 4: Trench 26 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 26 was excavated east of its proposed location and shortened because of reptile fencing and services but broadened to compensate for some of the reduction in size. The trench measured 14.70m by 4.20m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m where natural geology and demolition rubble was encountered.
- 4.3.2 This trench was dominated by demolition rubble across most of its length, but the northern end contained the foundations of the farm building that was known to have occupied the site.
- 4.3.3 The foundations comprised two phases of construction. The first, (26/005), was brick-built and bonded with a lime-rich mortar. The bricks were approximately 225x120x60mm, shallow frogged and formed a wall 0.49m wide and foundations at least 0.41m deep. This wall continued into trench 27; it is likely to be of 18th or early 19th century date.
- 4.3.4 Abutting this wall was a smaller set of foundations (26/006), made of late 19th or 20th century frogged bricks and bonded with a cement mortar, which had an internal broken tile infill and a crushed chalk layer external to it (26/004).
- 4.3.5 Much of the trench was disturbed by brick and flint demolition rubble (26/002) with drinks cans and crisp packets contained within it.
- 4.3.6 The natural geology was overlain by a 0.40m thick layer of demolition rubble (26/002) which in turn was overlain by 0.10m thick layer of dark brown-grey loamy topsoil (26/001).

4.4 Trench 27 (Figures 4 and 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	26.00	1.80	0.10-0.20	117.72-117.75
27/002	Layer	Demolition layer	7.50	1.80	0.20	117.60
27/003	Layer	Natural	26.00	1.80	-	116.96
27/004	Layer	Levelling deposit	15.00	1.80	0.20	117.55
27/005	Layer	Subsoil	20.00	1.80	0.15-0.20	117.52
27/006	Cut	Modern ditch	2.15	0.50	0.06	117.38
27/007	Fill	Modern ditch	2.15	0.50	0.06	117.38
27/008	Masonry	Wall foundation	2.02	0.49	0.41	117.61
27/009	Masonry	Modern drain	3.96	0.66	-	117.40
27/010	Masonry	Modern soakaway	2.07	1.52	-	117.27
27/011	Cut	Modern pit	1.21	1.01	-	116.97
27/012	Cut	Modern pit	1.05	0.91	-	116.94

Table 5: Trench 27 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 27 was moved 7.00m to the south to avoid mature trees. It measured 26.00 long, 1.80m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m.
- 4.4.2 The only feature of archaeological interest was a continuation of wall (26/005), here designated (27/008), which had the same characteristics as that described above.
- 4.4.3 All other features in this trench were modern and comprised a service for the farm building, some intrusive demolition rubble a brick-filled soakaway, a ditch and two modern pits.
- 4.4.4 The natural was overlain by 0.20m demolition rubble (27/002) at the western end and 0.15-0.20m subsoil (27/005) towards the middle and eastern end. The subsoil had a thin layer of crushed chalk above it (27/004). The crushed chalk and demolition rubble both had a 0.10-0.20m layer of topsoil (27/001) above it.

4.5 Trench 28 (Figures 4 and 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	30.00	1.80	0.15-0.52	116.83-117.94
28/002	Layer	Levelling deposit	10.00	1.80	0.05	116.88
28/003	Layer	Subsoil	30.00	1.80	0.22	117.17
28/004	Layer	Made ground	20.00	1.80	0.24-0.33	116.57-117.77
28/005	Fill	Redeposited natural fill of modern pit	5.10	1.80	-	117.42
28/006	Layer	Natural	30.00	1.80	-	116.37-117.44
28/007	Cut	Soakaway	3.70	0.81	0.20	116.47
28/008	Fill	Soakaway	3.70	0.81	0.20	116.47
28/009	Cut	Modern pit	5.10	1.80	-	117.25
28/010	Fill	Modern pit	5.10	1.80	-	117.25
28/011	Cut	Modern ditch	1.80	1.00	0.20	116.89
28/012	Fill	Modern ditch	1.80	1.00	0.20	116.89

Table 6: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 28 was measured 30.00m x 1.80m in plan it was excavated a maximum depth of 0.74m where made ground was encountered. The natural geology was overlain by surviving subsoil (28/003) in the centre of the trench which measured up to 0.17m thick. The subsoil and natural were cut by a series of modern features including, a ditch, a soakaway and a pit. The features were overlain by rubbly made ground (28/004) up to 0.33m thick. This was overlain by 0.05m of chalk crush (28/002) and 0.15m-0.52m of topsoil.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A sample of brickwork was recovered from each of the two walls encountered. No other finds of archaeological interest were observed.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.2.1 Two full bricks and one part brick were recovered from three evaluation contexts at Horsted Park, weighing a total of 6621g. One full brick, taken from [26/006] was identified as being Museum of London (MOL) fabric 3032, a stock brick fabric used widely from the 17-19th centuries. This brick had a shallow frog and was coated in cement mortar, making it most likely to have been taken from a building dating c.19-20th century.

5.2.2 The second full brick was taken from [27/008]; this and the partial brick taken from [28/011] were both made from a fairly clean fabric near MOL 3034, but without the streaking. The full brick was well-formed with sharp arises and very even faces. It did not appear to be frogged, but much of the brick surfaces were obscured by a thick layer (10mm+) of coarse lime mortar, with visible charcoal and other inclusions including small fragments of ceramic building material and bone or wood. On one stretcher a very small remnant (<5mm²) of glaze was still visible. Collectively these elements would suggest this brick came from a structure dating to the 18th century or early 19th century.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The trenches across the north of the site both had a stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil with the natural geology being encountered at heights of between 116.56m AOD in the east and 117.22m AOD in the west. Those trenches to the south predominantly comprised topsoil above demolition rubble, with some subsoil remaining in places. The natural here was encountered at 116.37m AOD towards the east of the site and 117.47m AOD at the west. The natural geology across the site was clay with flint, but a few patches with increased sand content and no flints were observed.

7.1.2 One undated pit of possible archaeological interest was encountered, [25/004], and the foundations of the farm building that occupied the site were also observed. The foundations of the farm building suggest an early 19th century construction, but perhaps originate as early as the late 18th century. No dateable finds were recovered from the foundation trenches and no indication of an earlier structure was observed.

7.1.3 No unstratified finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the site.

7.1.4 The evaluation was successful in determining the archaeological potential of the site. Despite the slight reduction in area of trenching, much of the area was discovered to have been disturbed by the construction and demolition of the farm on the site. Where disturbance had not occurred there was only very limited evidence of archaeological potential, with only a single undated pit recorded.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Construction and demolition of the farm buildings have impacted the site considerably. This has removed the subsoil in most locations and truncated the surface of the underlying natural geology. Subsoil survived apparently intact only within Trench 25 and in parts of Trench 28. In Trench 25 a single undated pit survived.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Post-medieval

7.3.1 The foundations recorded date to the late 18th or early 19th century and relate to farm buildings shown on the 1842 Ordnance Survey map. Other features; pits and drainage features, are of likely 20th century date, and are thought to relate to the farm buildings.

Undated

7.3.2 One undated pit was recorded in Trench 25. This survived beneath apparently intact subsoil.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

- *To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any remains and deposits*

The masonry remains of various late 18th or 19th century farm buildings were recorded. These were limited to the western part of the evaluated area and survived to foundation level only. Various drainage features and pits probably relating to the farm of likely 20th century date were recorded. One undated pit was also recorded.

- *To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site*

Depending on the foundation design of the proposed development, all of these remains may be removed during construction-related activity.

- *To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site*

Previous demolition of the farm buildings has caused horizontal truncation into the underlying natural geology in much of the western part of the site. In Trench 25 in the north-west of the site, deposits and one undated feature survived intact.

- *The chronology and typology of farm buildings*

The encountered farm buildings appear to be of late 18th or early 19th century date. Nothing relating to the typology of farm buildings has been learned because only foundations were recorded.

7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 The foundations of late 18th or early 19th century farm buildings and associated features were recorded. One undated pit was also recorded.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	MKC 11				
Project code	7770				
Planning reference	MC/15/0335				
Site address	Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College, MAidstone Road, Chatham, Kent,				
District/Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	574883 164789				
Geology	Clay with Flints				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	12-13 th October 2015				
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery				
Period summary					
				Post-Medieval	Other
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College Site, Chatham, Kent between 12th and 13th October 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of construction work. Five trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated.</p> <p>The foundations of late 18th or early 19th century farm buildings and associated features were recorded. One undated pit was also recorded. Considerable disturbance had taken place during the construction and demolition of the buildings and no other finds or features of archaeological interest were noted.</p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-226986

Project details

Project name Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College Site,
Maidstone Road, Chatham

Short description of the project This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Horsted Park (Phase 2), Former Mid Kent College Site, Chatham, Kent between 12th and 13th October 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of construction work. Five trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated. The foundations of late 18th or early 19th century farm buildings and associated features were recorded. One undated pit was also recorded. Considerable disturbance had taken place during the construction and demolition of the buildings and no other finds or features of archaeological interest were noted.

Project dates Start: 12-10-2015 End: 13-10-2015

Any associated project reference codes MKC 11 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 7770 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Monument type DITCHES Post Medieval

Monument type FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval

Monument type PITS Modern

Significant Finds BRICKS Post Medieval

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT MEDWAY CHATHAM Horsted Park (Phase 2) Former
Mid Kent College Site

Postcode ME1 7XQ

Study area 6 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 74883 64789 51.354672739691 0.511907335533 51 21 16
N 000 30 42 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 116.37m Max: 117.6m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 19 October 2015

Organisation

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

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Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

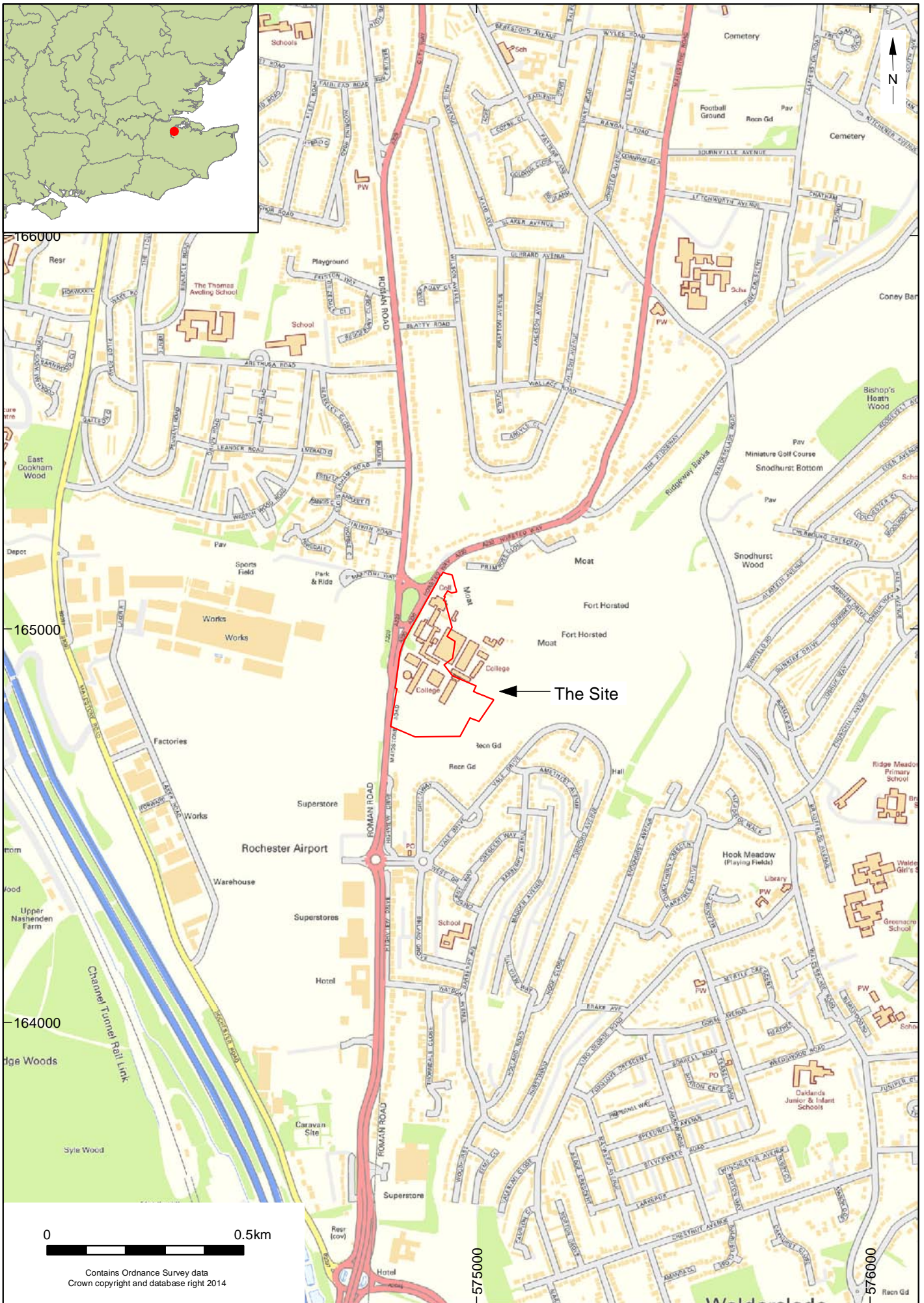
Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

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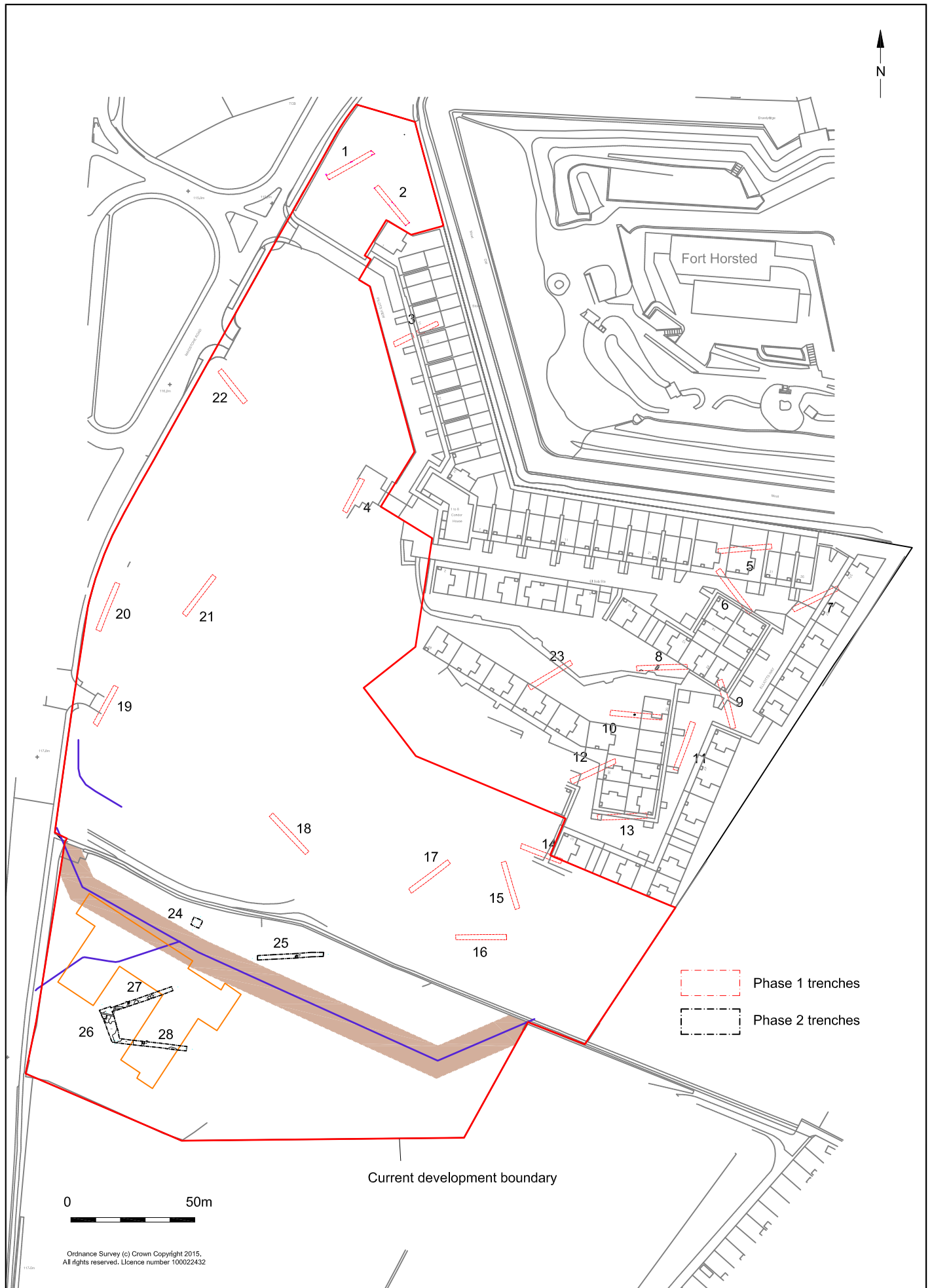
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

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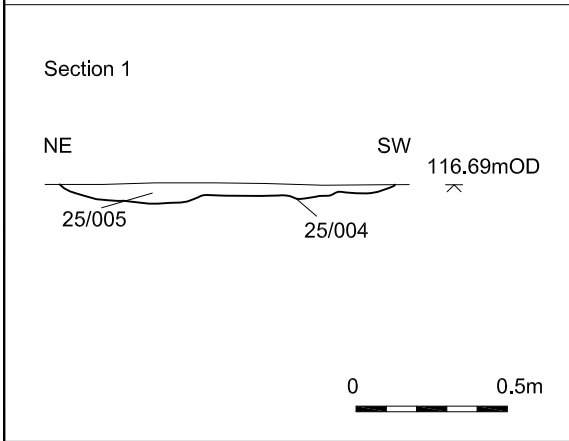
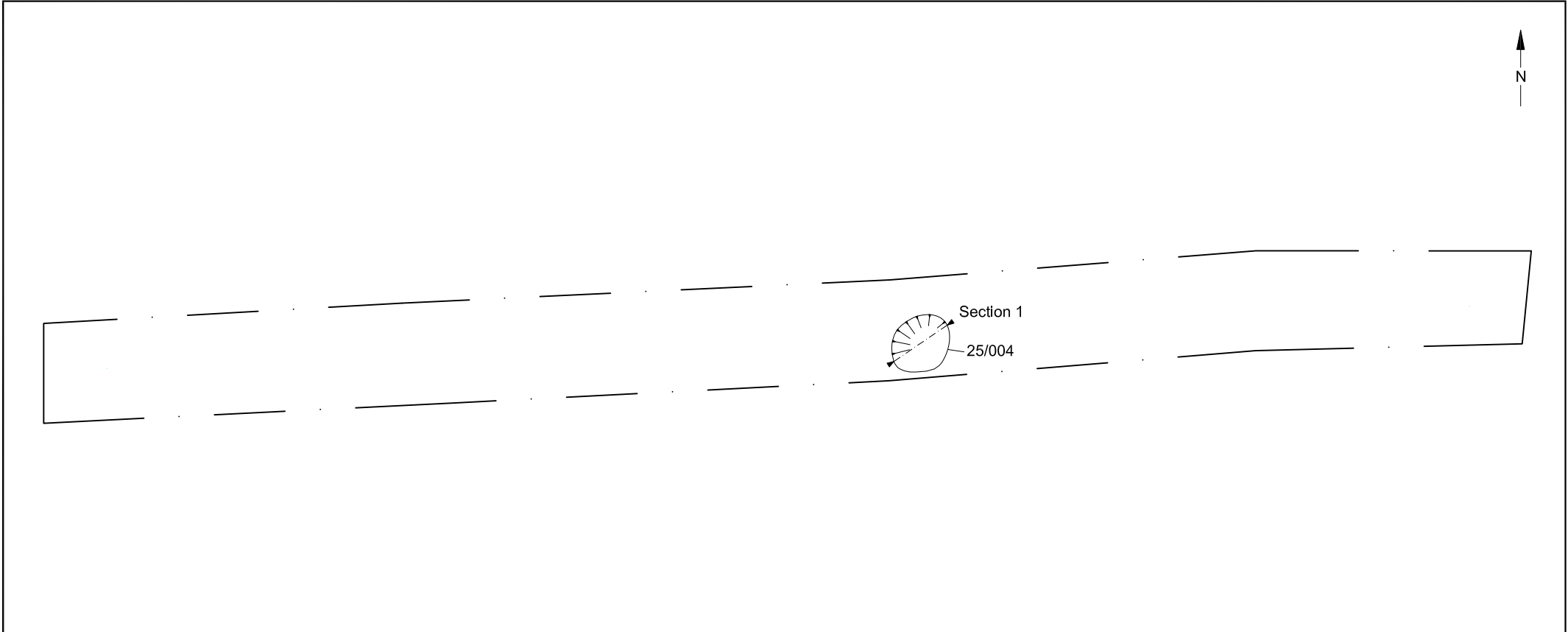
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Project Ref: 7770	Oct 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015387	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		Horsted Park Phase 2, Chatham		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7770	Oct 2015	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2015383	Drawn by: LG			



25/004 looking north-west



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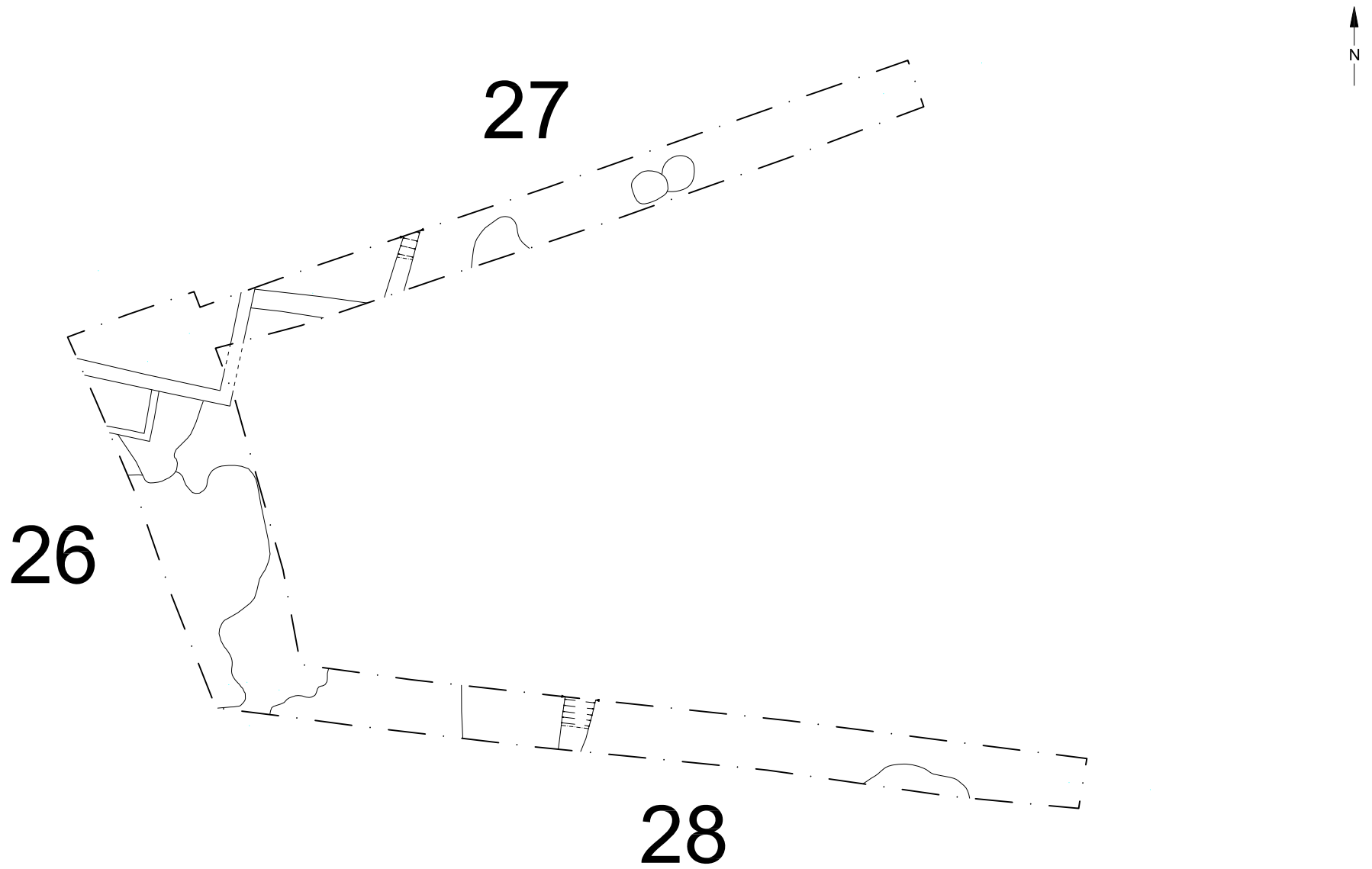
Oct 2015

Report Ref: 2015383

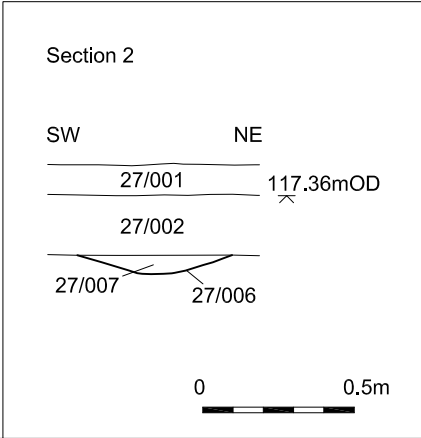
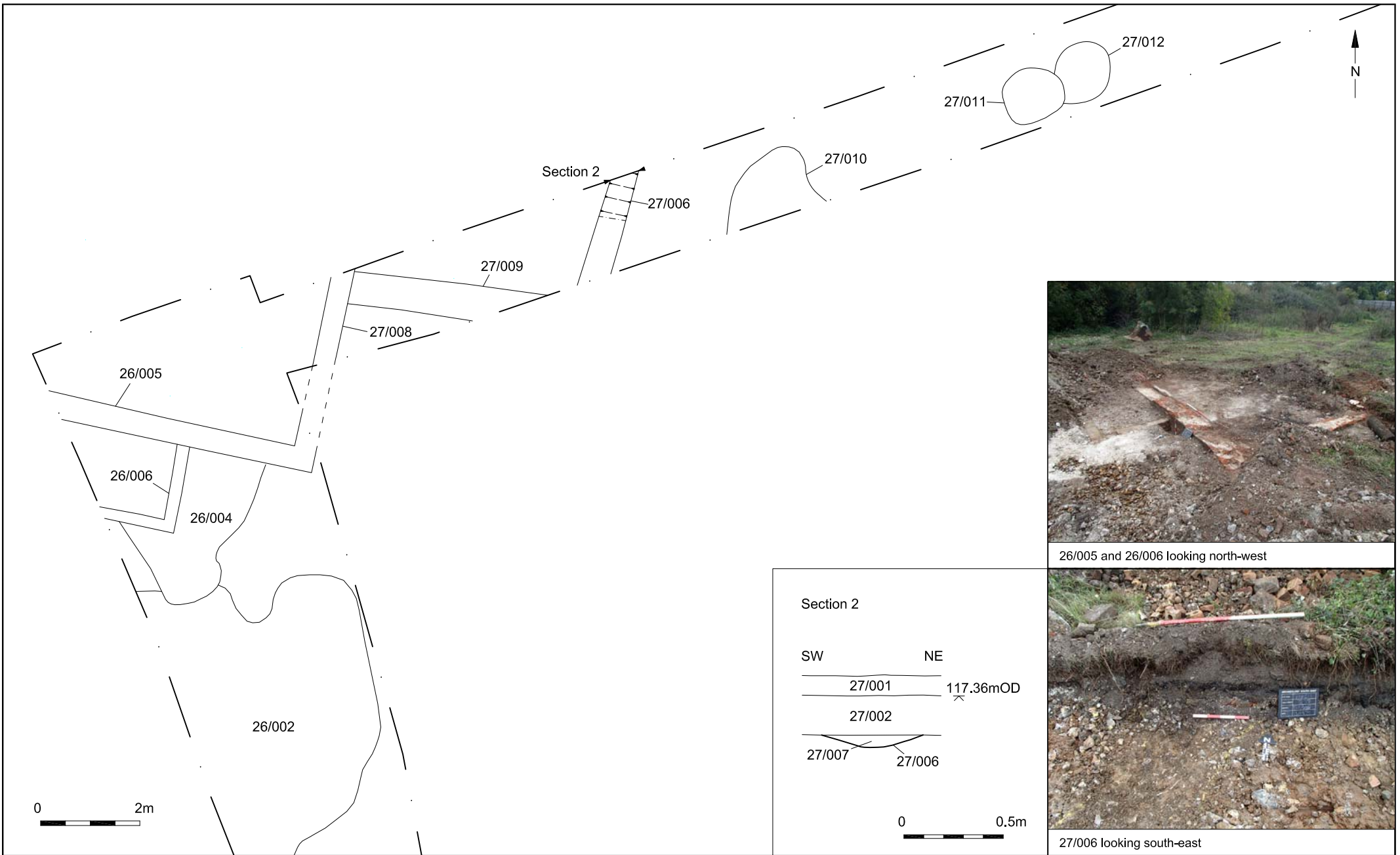
Drawn by: LG

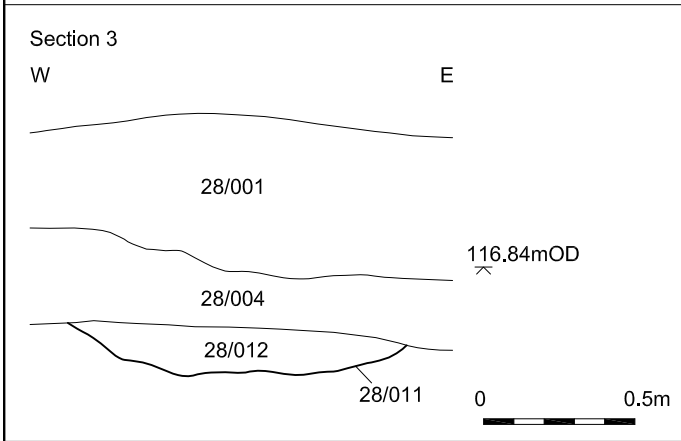
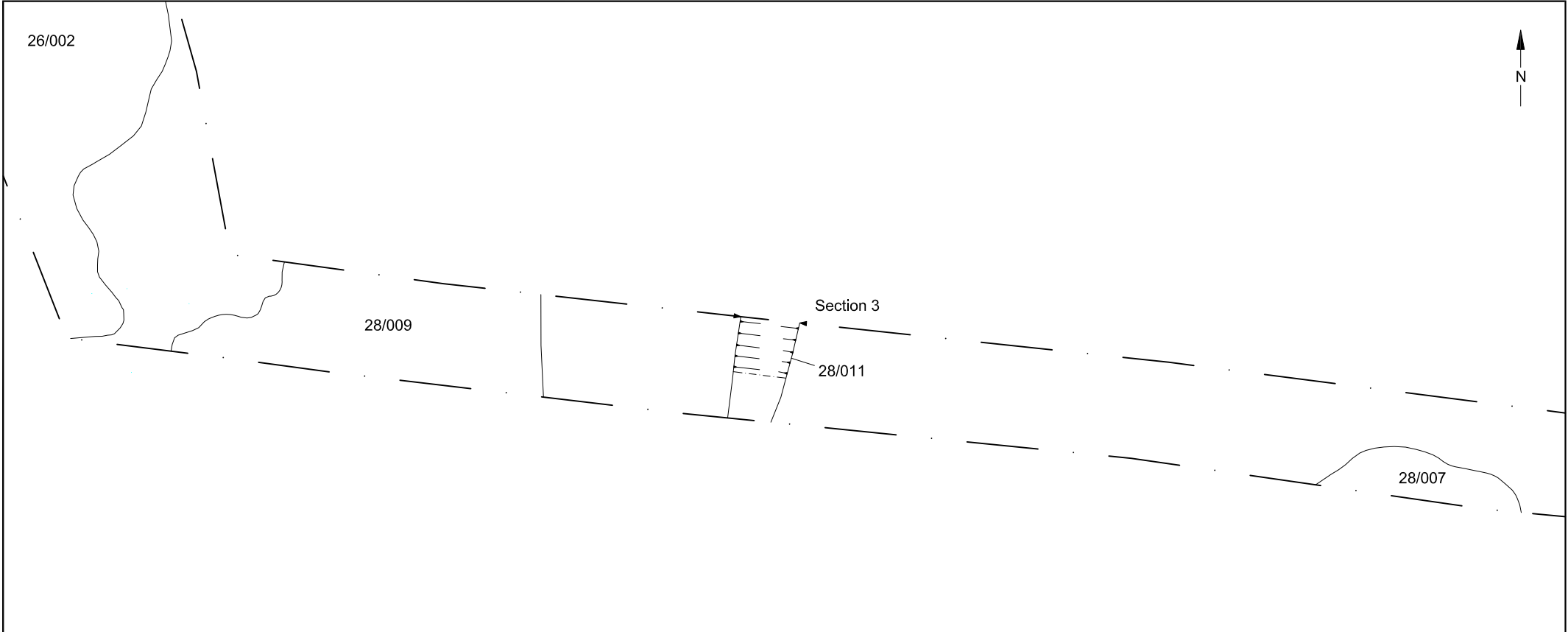
Trench 25 plan, section and photo

Fig. 3



© Archaeology South-East		Horsted Park Phase 2, Chatham	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7770	Oct 2015	Overall plan of trenches 26, 27 and 28	
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© Archaeology South-East		Horsted Park Phase 2, Chatham	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 7770	Oct 2015	Trench 28 plan, section and photo	
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